The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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ANTI-INJUNCTION LAW PASSED IN MINNESOTA

St. Paul, April 28.—By the hardest kind of fighting and good headwork Minnesota trade unionists secured the passage of an anti-injunction law in the closing hours of the state legislature. The bill passed the house, but the senate judiciary committee voted to report the bill for indefinite postponement. The unionists succeeded in overturning this recommendation and on the last day of the session 35 senators voted to suspend the rules and put the bill on final passage. Advocates of the measure had one vote to spare, as 34 was necessary for passage.

The law declares that "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce" and that the right to labor or to carry on a business "shall be held and construed to be a personal and not a property right." No injunction can be issued in any case growing out of a dispute concerning terms or conditions of employment unless necessary to prevent irreparable injury to property or to a property right, for which injury there is no adequate remedy at law, and such property or property right must be described in the application and sworn to by the applicant for an injunction.

Courts are prohibited from issuing injunctions against the doing of any act or thing by strikers which might lawfully be done in the absence of such dispute by a single individual.

It is specifically declared that no restraining order or injunction shall prohibit workers from striking or from urging others to join them; from picketing or from ceasing to patronize any party to such dispute or from recommending, advising or persuading others by peaceful and lawful means so to do. No person shall be indicted, prosecuted or tried in any court of this state for entering into an agreement to better working conditions or for any act done in pursuance thereof, "unless such act is in itself forbidden by law if done by a single individual."

GOOD RESULTS IN MINNESOTA.

Washington, April 28.—In a letter to Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., on the passage of an anti-injunction bill by the Minnesota legislature, Secretary Lawson of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor says:

"We were also successful in amending the workmen's compensation law by reducing the waiting period from two weeks to one week and increasing the percentage of wages paid from 50 to 60 per cent, and increasing the maximum in injury cases from $11 to $12.

"We failed to secure the passage of a state insurance law similar to Ohio, but we did get it constitutionally upheld by the judiciary committee of the senate. All of these bills were preferential bills of the state federation of labor. We were successful in preventing the passage of many vicious bills aimed at the labor movement and will forward you copies of same.

"We thank President Gompers and yourself for congratulations on the success of our anti-injunction efforts and we feel that while we were not successful in getting all that we asked, our work during this session has not been in vain."

NEW YORK CENTRAL PROSPERS.

New York, April 28.—The annual report of the New York Central Railroad company for the year ending December 31, 1916, just issued, shows operating revenues of $201,585,000, an increase of $33,672,000 over 1915. The profits for railroad operations amounted to $71,846,000, an increase of $13,238,000 compared with the figures for the previous year.

Among the interesting features of the report is the setting aside from net income $2,500,000 for equipment depreciation account, after the payment of $12,466,611 in dividends, leaving a surplus of $30,692,606. This is more than double the surplus of the previous year, when nothing was set aside for depreciation of equipment.

The report also shows that the income derived from dividends from subsidiary companies amounted to $11,099,697, an increase of more than $4,000,000 compared with 1915.

CITY PAYS UNION SCALE.

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 28.—Municipal authorities have agreed to pay union wages. The schedule provides for an eight-hour day and the following hourly rates::

Blacksmiths, 56 1-4 cents; bricklayers, 75 cents; carpenters, 45 cents; electrical workers, 62 1-2 cents; electrical workers' helpers, 37 1-2 cents; structural iron workers, 62½ cents; iron workers (reinforcing), 56 1-4 cents; building laborers, 43 3-4 cents; metal lathers, 81 1-4 cents; machinists, 56 1-4 cents; sheet metal workers, 56 1-4 cents; plasterers, 62 1-2 cents; painters, 45 cents; plumbers, 50 cents; tile layers, 75 cents; tile layers' helpers, 40 5-8 cents; stone cutters, 62 1-2 cents.

FATHER AND MOTHER KILLED.

Philadelphia, April 28.—Referee Scott of the workmen's compensation fund has ruled that Emma Parsons is entitled to compensation for the death of both father and mother, who were killed in the Eddystone war munitions plant disaster.

The referee held that if the father and mother had been working for different corporations and had been killed the same day, there would be no question of the child's right to compensation for both. That they were killed in the same plant does not change her status as a claimant, he says.

IRON MOLDERS ADVANCE.

Springfield, Mass., April 28.—After a short strike union iron molders in this city and vicinity have raised wages from $3.60 to $4 a day, with back pay starting from March 19. This rate shall continue until July 30, when an additional advance of 25 cents a day will be paid.

St. Louis, Mo., April 28.—Organized iron molders have adjusted differences with the Granite City and East St. Louis plants of the American Steel company. Wages are increased to 54 cents an hour for a nine-hour day.

PRAISE OHIO LIABILITY LAW.

Boston, April 28.—E. E. Watson, actuary of the Ohio state fund for workingmen's compensation insurance, told the legislative committee on judiciary that "both employers and employes are substantially 100 per cent back of the state fund." The last Ohio legislature, he said, had passed a law prohibiting private insurance companies from participating in the compensation field, and against that law there were but two votes in the house and one in the senate.

SHOP MEN MAKE GAINS.

Boston, April 28.—Federated shop men on the Boston & Maine railroad have raised wages 2 cents an hour for all crafts and secured a Saturday half holiday during July and August without loss of pay or working extra time.

W. U. EIGHT-HOUR PLAN IS NOT LEGITIMATE

Chicago, April 28.—The eight-hour announcement of the Western Union Telegraph company will increase the burden of telegraphers, says the Commercial Telegraphers' Journal, which exposes the hypocrisy of this anti-union corporation that is sweating every ounce of energy from its employes.

While day tricks are reduced from nine to eight hours, night tricks are increased from seven and one-half to eight hours, late night tricks will be lengthened from seven to eight, split tricks from seven and one-half to eight, day work will be computed at the rate of eight hours per day instead of seven, and overtime will be paid on the eight-hour basis instead of seven as heretofore.

The plan is reactionary, instead of progressive, and many of the telegraphers declare that the small wage increases that accompany the so-called "eight-hour" day is intended to silence discontent and that the company will "readjust" wages when the dissatisfaction subsides.

"With time and one-half being paid for overtime in most trades, with double time being allowed for Sunday work," says the editor, "the lengthening of the day by the Western Union simply adds to the many wrongs done the telegraphers by the corporation. They have murdered the spirit of liberty amongst their employes and after having done so they are now carrying out their plans of exploitation. First the speeding up system, then the lengthening of split tricks, now the rearrangement of hours with a new basis for overtime and Sunday work, and the next step is well under way.

"Instead of rejoicing over the establishment of such an eight-hour day, we protest. The price that has been exacted by the company is too high, and it is exacted at a time when the workers might have expected more generous treatment. With earnings the highest in the history of the company; with profits increasing by leaps and bounds; with record-breaking prosperity for the company which President Carlton attributes solely to the splendid work done by the employes, lengthening of hours, the reduction of overtime pay, and for Sunday work comes with poor grace indeed."

SPOIL MILK TO BEAT STRIKERS.

Kent, Wash., April 28.—Striking employes of the Carnation Milk Products company charge that this concern, in order to hold its milk supply and defeat its workers, are spoiling tons of fresh milk. The strikers are demanding better conditions and have organized a union. They are being supported by practically every influence in this place and the editor of the Kent Journal, in urging the formation of a new company, says:

"As a member of the advisory board of the Washington Manufacturers' association we are able to judge of the many difficulties confronting a manufacturer, but we cannot concede that the workers here have made unjust demands.

"It now appears to the outsider that, as words have failed; conferences have failed; delegations have failed to accomplish what we all desire—the operation of the factory, so, that the company will profit, the employes will profit and the community will profit—there is but one thing to do, put ourselves in a position whereby we will never again be subjected to such a condition."

LOSS WOULD FINANCE WAR.

Philadelphia, April 28.—Financial losses by accidents in industries would pay the expenses of the war if they could be saved, according to Silas S. Riddle of the state department of labor and industry.

To illustrate the terrific economic drain because of these accidents, the state official said:

"At the present rate the losses by accidents in Pennsylvania this year will aggregate $7,000,000. These figures will be doubled by the costs of administration, medical fees, etc., and the total of $14,000,000 will represent the interest at 2½ per cent on $400,000,000. Using these figures for a basis, the amount for the whole country would equal, annually, $7,000,000,000. More than 50 per cent of the number of men killed in the civil war are killed annually in Pennsylvania industries."

HOW TO KEEP LABOR IN SOUTH.

Knoxville, Tenn., April 28.—Organizations of all kinds are giving serious thought to the best way to stop labor drifting away from East Tennessee. The problem seems most intricate, but Editor Keith of the Knoxville Plain Dealer, in regulation trade union style, upsets the theorists with this advice:

"Provide steady work at living wages and the laborers will stay here. Laborers are leaving Knoxville at the beck of labor agents because they have been promised regular work at higher pay than they receive here. To keep East Tennessee labor in East Tennessee this section must raise its standard of employment and wages."

STREET CAR MEN ADVANCE.

San Antonio, Tex., April 28.—The Street Car Men's union has secured what is believed to be the best wage contract in the south for this class of workers. It provides for improved working conditions and additional wages that will total over $80,000 a year. About 200 employes are increased $20 a month; 100 employes, $17.50 and 100 employes, $14.50. This union was organized a little over one year ago.

LET CONVICTS FARM.

Topeka, Kan., April 28.—Warden Codding, of the state penitentiary, favors a liberal use of the parole system in these war times and would release inmates in the state penitentiary for farm purposes. "In other times some of our boys have failed to make good because they couldn't get steady work when we released them, but they are needed now," he says.

CANADIAN PAINTERS ACTIVE.

Toronto, Ontario, April 28.—Vice President Scott of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators reports that wage agreements, carrying 40-cent minimums, have been secured in Brantford, Hamilton and St. Catharines and in Niagara Falls a 45-cent minimum and the union shop.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, April 28.—Organized team owners have raised wages of their drivers 25 cents a day. These workers are members of Teamsters' union No. 174. Individual team owners are meeting the new rates.

POTTERS ORGANIZE.

Erwin, Tenn., April 28.—A local of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has been organized at this place.

GIVES U. S. CONTROL OF CAR MOVEMENTS

Washington, April 28.—The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce has made a unanimous report in favor of a bill that gives the government supreme control in the matter of emergency railroad traffic. The interstate commerce commission is empowered to suspend, either upon complaint or upon its own initiative without complaint, the operation of any rules of railroads regarding the movement of freight cars, and is is authorized to make any rules it sees fit. The proposed law would practically take from the hands of railroad managers the movement of cars, and is indorsed by the interstate commerce commission, state railroad commissions and various industrial and shipping organizations.

In its report on the bill the house committee said some of the reasons for the remarkable car shortage in the past few months was the lack of adequate terminal and yard facilities, lack of cars and motive power, holding cars for speculative purposes and lack of ocean carrying space.

GAINS BY METAL POLISHERS.

Cincinnati, April 28.—General Secretary Atherton of the Metal Polishers' International union reports the following recent Cleveland gains:

Champion Plating company and Ohio Plating Works—Weekly minimum of $27 for a 50-hour week. Northern Ohio Plating Works—Beginning May 1, 45 cents an hour for 50-hour week; after July 1, 50 cents an hour and the 48-hour week. National Plating Works—45-cent minimum until July 1; thereafter, 50-cent minimum, 50-hour week and time and one-half for overtime. White Sewing Machine company—Wages increased 5 cents an hour. Bentley & Dilly—Eight-hour day for nine hours' pay. Columbia Hardware company—Time and one-half for over 48-hour week and 5 cents an hour increase. Bischop-Babcock-Becker company—Polishers and buffers increased from 40 cents to 50 cents an hour; time and one-half over 48 hours; increases range from 40 cents to $5 a week. Enterprise Plating company—Wages increased to 50 cents an hour for a 48-hour week. Verdin Brass company—Time and one-half over 48 hours and wages increased to 50 cents an hour. Champion Stove company—Eight-hour day with a 12 per cent wage increase. Union Graphophone Supply company—Wages increased from 45 to 50 cents an hour; 48-hour week; time and one-half for overtime. Langenow Manufacturing company—Wages increased from 37 1-2 to 45 cents an hour; piece workers guaranteed 50 cents an hour; hours reduced from 10 to nine and time and one-half for over nine hours.

MINERS ARE NOT DELUDED.

Trinidad, Col., April 28.—"There has been much publicity given to the statement that the Colorado Fuel and Iron company would give a 10 per cent increase in wages on May 1," says Editor O'Neill, of the Trinidad Free Press.

"The employes of this company will welcome the increase, but they are not becoming delirious because such an increase has been advertised as coming through the so-called 'Rockefeller plan.' The employes of the C. F. & I company in Colorado are well aware that the increase is not the result of any humanitarianism or benevolence on the part of the 'Rockefeller union,' but due to the fact that the company is cognizant that its employes are organizing as never before under the flag of the United Mine Workers of America."

DOES THIS EDITOR READ?

Jacksonville, Fla., April 28.—Trade unionists in this state are urging the passage of a law that would regulate the use of injunctions in strike times. The bill is drawn along the lines of the Clayton act, passed by the national congress, but this is what the hostile Times-Union thinks of a plan that would accord constitutional rights to striking workers:

"The real purpose of this act is to legalize large bodies of men going on private property and breaking up a man's business by getting his employes to go on strike and keeping them from returning to work, and preventing others from getting a job in their place, thus ruining the employer completely."

ADMITS H. C. OF L.

New York, April 28.—The municipal bureau of personal service admits the high cost of living in its statement that the best an unskilled laborer's family can hope to do at present is to live on $980.41 a year, as against $844.94 for the year 1915. The "family" with which the report deals consists of five members, father, mother, a girl of 10 and two boys, 13 and 6 years old. Food costs have increased $100 a year, it is stated. The report is to be used as a basis for salary increases for laborers in the employ of the city, and has special reference to the street cleaning department employes.

BOILER MAKERS ADVANCE.

Mobile, Ala., April 28.—Employers accepted the $4 rate and the eight-hour day demand of organized boiler makers, but objected to increasing the helpers' $1.75 rate. After a two-days' strike the employers concluded that the helpers should receive more money and that a better system should be devised for handling grievances, which the unionists urged. The union has almost trebled its membership as a result of these gains.

WANT TO IMPORT ORIENTALS.

New York, April 28.—Taking advantage of the cry for more labor, the board of trade and transportation has prepared a bill which it intends to have introduced in congress granting the president power in times of war to suspend any law excluding aliens from the United States. The bill is for the specific purpose of bringing in Chinese and Japanese labor.

PAPER MAKERS CONVENE.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., April 28.—At the convention of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, matters of interest to this industry were considered. In his opening address President Carey protested against state constabulary legislation passed by the state legislature.

OPPOSE PICKETING LAW.

Oakland, Cal., April 28.—Organized labor is waging a vigorous campaign against the proposed anti-picketing ordinance, which will be submitted to the people of this city on May 8.

OPPOSE "THIRD DEGREE."

Albany, N. Y., April 28.—The state assembly has passed a bill making it illegal for police officials to use the "third degree" [illegible]

WANTS LABOR LAWS ENFORCED.

Washington, April 28.—The council of national defense has called upon state and municipal authorities to strictly enforce standards of wages, hours of employment, and working conditions, and workers and employers to "refer any differences to government agencies for adjustment. It is not the purpose of the council to undertake to determine wages. It is believed, however, that no arbitrary changes should be sought at this time without giving government agencies an opportunity to prevent suspension of work."

COURTS CAN'T STAY WORKERS' FREEDOM

Lafayette, Ind., April 28.—If the United States supreme court is permitted to continue its policy of setting aside legislative enactments, legislative bodies will become mere debating societies, says Editor Skemp of the Painter and Decorator.

"The trend in this direction," he says, "is shown clearly in the 'by-the-way' in the decision handed down upon the Adamson law. The court deliberately digressed from the question before it—as to whether the Adamson law came within the scope of the power to regulate interstate commerce conferred upon congress under the constitution—and advised congress to enact a law to provide for compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes and to abrogate the right of men engaged in occupations essential to public service to strike to enforce demands for better conditions. This advice will not be lost upon the corporation attorneys sitting in the house and the senate.

"The right to work or not to work is the only clear distinction between the free wage earner and the serf. The workers hold that right sacred, to be exercised whenever necessary in defense of liberties won and in the struggle for greater liberty. Congress should be slow to act upon the suggestion of this small body of men, the majority of whom, though profoundly learned in the law, are not close to the life of the people or in sympathy with progressive ideals."

REFUSE WAGE INCREASES; MADE 259 PER CENT PROFIT

Hartford, Conn., April 28.—Union metal polishers are waging a vigorous strike against the Colt Patent Fire Arms company, which forced these employes on strike September 8, 1915, because they asked that wages be increased 5 cents an hour with time and one-half for overtime. The polishers made every attempt to adjust differences, but the company declared it "was not in a position to grant the demands, as they were very unreasonable."

Last year, according to its financial report just issued, the company made a profit of 259 per cent, or $6,345,731, and yet they say they cannot afford to pay metal polishers 45 cents an hour.

SEAMEN RAISE WAGES.

New York, April 28.—Conditions on the Atlantic coast have compelled vessel owners to raise wages of able seamen and firemen to $60 a month; oilers and pumpmen, $65; boatswains, $70, and carpenters, $75. At a conference of seamen from the northern part of the coast from Norfolk northeast these figures were agreed to because they are being paid in individual instances. Vessels going into the war zone will pay 50 per cent bonus in addition to these rates, same to continue until the crew return to the United States. If the clothing of these workers is lost, through the loss of the vessel, $100 compensation is to be paid in each case. The conference suggested that some system of insurance, such as has been in operation in Europe, be established so that men permanently injured may be compensated or the dependents of men who fail to come back may be compensated. While able seamen as a class are not married, many of them have mothers, fathers or sisters who depend upon them as bread winners.

WANT UNIFORM R. R. RULES.

Denver, April 28.—Colorado railroad employes urge the state authorities to insist that railroad managers adopt uniform rules to replace the contradictory system now in use. The workers say that the rules conflict to such an extent that they can be discharged if they disobey certain orders and if they conform to other rules covering the same line of work they are likewise discharged.

MILL MEN WIN EIGHT HOURS.

Beaumont, Tex., April 28.—A short strike has secured the eight-hour day, the union shop and increased wages for mill men in this city and Port Arthur, members of Carpenters' union No. 1061. Minimum rates shall be 45 cents an hour for bench men, stair builders, cutter and moldermen; 42½ cents for glaziers and 22 1-2 cents for sander and drive-up men. Time and one-half shall be paid for overtime and double time for holidays.

NAVY MAN AND UNIONIST AGREE.

Boston, April 28.—Vice President Dowd of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Captain Lyons of the United States navy made short work of a grievance registered by boiler makers in the Charleston navy yards who were reduced from $4.24 to $3.76 a day. The men refused to work, but the conference resulted in re-establishing the old rate and paying the men for the day lost.

ORGANIZE 25 UNIONS.

Albany, N. Y., April 28.—Secretary-Treasurer Persion of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' union, reports that 25 locals have been organized during the past quarter. Wage increases and improved working conditions are general and the international organization now has a balance of $122,414.26, as against $118,601.48 at the close of the previous quarter.

MACHINE MOLDERS GAIN.

Joliet, Ill., April 28.—Organized machine molders have secured a new wage schedule which establishes a minimum of $4.25 a day, an increase of 50 cents a day. Last year these workers reduced hours from 10 to nine and established a $3.75 minimum.

RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

Fort Worth, Tex., April 28.—The Plumbers' union has raised wages 50 cents a day, following a series of conferences [illegible]

MINERS WILL IGNORE "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW

Frederick, Col., April 28.—The following easily-understood letter has been forwarded to the state industrial commission, at Denver, by United Mine Workers' union No. 2753:

"Dear Sirs—In regard to an investigation in behalf of the miners of this (Frederick) district—has an investigation been held, and what was the decision?

"The commission promised to start an investigation not later than the 15th of January, 1917, if we (the miners) would remain at our work. It is now the 10th of April; no decision has been handed down; the bonus has been taken off; men have been discriminated against.

"We hereby inform you that we will not tolerate any interference of the industrial commission when we present our demands again. Only a full concession from the operators will cause us to remain at work, as we fully realize that the industrial commission is not for our benefit."

CARPENTERS CONTINUE GAINS.

Indianapolis, April 28.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports the following recent successful trade movements by affiliated locals:

Red Lodge, Mont.—Wages increased from 62½ to 75 cents an hour. Manistee, Mich.—30 to 40 cents. Danbury, Conn.—40 to 50 cents. Belleville, Ill.—55 to 60 cents for outside men, minimum of 45 cents and use of union label for inside men. Oskaloosa, Iowa—50 to 55 cents. Poplar Bluff, Mo.—37½ to 45 cents. Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.—50 to 56¼ cents. Shamokin, Pa.—32 7-8 to 40 cents; hours reduced from nine to eight. Jamestown, N. Y.—43¾ to 50 cents; majority of contractors signed. Crawfordsville, Ind.—35 to 43 cents for outside men; 34 cents for millmen and union shop. Des Moines, Iowa—60 to 62½ cents until July 1, 1917; 65 cents from that date until April 1, 1919. East St. Louis, Ill.—40 to 50 cents for millmen; hours reduced from nine to eight. Watertown, N. Y.—50 to 55 cents. Cleveland—60 to 70 cents. Appleton, Wis.—40 to 45 cents. Lafayette, Ind.—50 to 60 cents. Philadelphia (dock builders)—50 cents and the eight-hour day. Topeka, Kan.—45 to 50 cents. Niagara Falls, Ontario—50 to 55 cents. Denver—35-cent minimum for millmen; eight and one-half hour day. Kingston, Ontario—37½ to 45 cents. Salem, Ore.—From $3.50 to $4.50 a day. Baker, Ore.—$4 to $4.50. Spokane—$4.50 to $5. Oconomowoc, Wis.—$3.60 to $4.20; hours reduced from nine to eight. Meriden, Conn.—Mill and outside men increased 40 cents a day, making the latter rate $4; millmen's hours reduced from 54 to 50 a week. Norfolk, Va.—44 to 50 cents for outside men; 25 cents a day for millmen, making $3.75 for nine hours. Port Jervis, N. Y.—$3 to $3.60 a day; Saturday half holiday.

WIRE MEN ARE ENJOINED.

Omaha, Neb., April 28.—Members of Electrical Workers' union, No. 22 "and all others" are enjoined by Judge Leslie "from interfering with plaintiffs, and each of them, in the prosecution of their said business, and said defendants are enjoined from interfering with the employes of said, and each of them, in pursuing their employment." The plaintiffs are a dozen large electrical companies which refuse wage increases to their union employes. Judge Landis does not define what constitutes "interfering." This feature of the proceedings will be attended to when some striker or sympathizer is charged with contempt of court by the employers' attorneys. Then the striker or sympathizer must prove to his honor's satisfaction that he is not guilty.

WOMEN'S HOURS REDUCED.

Columbus, Ohio, April 28.—State authorities are calling attention to the women's 50-hour law, passed by the last legislature. The law applies to females employed in any factory, workshop, telephone or telegraph office, millinery or dressmaking establishment, restaurant, or in the handling of messages, or in any mercantile establishment. Exception is made for canneries or establishments handling perishable goods. This law, which takes effect June 15 next, reduces hours of women from 54 to 50 a week.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Detroit, April 28.—Through arbitration Typographical union No. 18 has raised wages $2 a week for its members employed in book and job offices. The new schedule takes effect March 15 and the increase will date from that time.

La Junta, Colo., April 28.—Typographical union No. 722 has secured a three-year contract with employers, who will pay $2 a week by gradual increases during the life of the contract, which calls for $20 a week during its last six months. When this union was organized in 1912 $10 a week was considered high wages for a first-class printer.

SHOP MEN STICK BY CAR MEN.

Conneaut, Ohio, April 28.—In wage negotiations between federated shop men and the Nickel Plate railroad, the company refused to include the Brotherhood of Railway Car Men in the negotiations and insisted that a physical examination be included in the agreement. These questions were submitted to a secret vote of the men, who rejected the company's offer by a vote of 169 to 9 and 184 to 2 respectively.

CARPENTERS SCORE EASY WIN.

Sacramento, Cal., April 28.—Carpenters union No. 586 was surprised at the ready response to its request for wage increases from $5 to $5.50 a day. The union gave employers the customary notice and the members then prepared to plead their cause through conciliation methods, but the employers fooled 'em by accepting the new rate.

UNIONISTS TO WRITE CHARTER.

Cincinnati, April 28.—James Wilson, president of Pattern Makers' League of North America; Frank Rist, editor of the Cincinnati Chronicle and Thomas Jones, of the Carpenters' union have been elected members of a commission that will prepare a municipal charter

TRACK LABORERS WANT MORE.

Little Rock, Ark., April 28.—Track laborers on the Iron Mountain railroad are striking to raise wages to $2.25 a day. About 400 employes have suspended work.

WAITERS AND COOKS UNITE.

Peoria, Ill., April 28.—Cooks and waiters have organized and will affiliate with the [illegible]

RAILROADS WRECKED BY HIGH FINANCIERS

Washington, April 28.—Men in high places are charged by the interstate commerce commission with wrecking the Pere Marquette and the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroads. The first named property almost covers the state of Michigan and the latter road runs from Toledo to Cincinnati, a distance of 200 miles.

In a report just issued the commission declares that the financial downfall of these roads was caused by a "breach of trust by corporate officials, often for personal gain."

"That downfall with its deplorable consequences," the report reads, "can be traced only to betrayal within and not to compulsion without. Neither rivalry nor rate level nor regulation, nor all combined, can be found on this record to have contributed in any appreciable degree to the disaster."

The commission's report is a lengthy one, and the following is a sample of this scorching indictment:

"Not only this, but the high officials of such institutions while acting ostensibly as directors of the railroads, have, in fact, been little more than tools and dummies for the promoters. The trustees of other peoples' money seem to have had little compunction about violations of their trusts, for the benefit of the promoters and at their demand.

"To the extent that these 'flotations (securities) ultimately lodged in the hands of innocent investors, whether here or abroad, the public was deeply wronged. Whatever control or regulation was had of the properties and operations of the two roads was not sufficient to keep them in operation to satisfactorily serve the population dependent upon them."

ANTI-UNIONISTS BUMPED.

Sacramento, Cal., April 28.—Trade union opponents—who insist on being known as "open shop" advocates—have received some hard bumps at the hands of the California legislature. The antis are headed by President Koster of the San Francisco chamber of commerce, which recently started a million-dollar campaign in favor of "law and order." This element favored the Goetting bill, providing for "compulsory mediation in strikes on public utilities." Legislators were not tricked by the contradictory term "compulsory mediation," and the scheme received only 16 votes in the assembly, where 41 votes is necessary to pass.

The Ballard bill, outlawing the secondary boycott and the sympathetic strike, was another piece of legislative wisdom, according to President Koster, but it received only two votes in the senate judiciary committee.

The Rominger bill, which would prohibit unions from passing apprentice regulations, received eight votes in the senate, where 21 votes is necessary to pass.

And to add to the woes of anti-unionists, the senate has passed an anti-injunction bill favored by organized labor and drawn along the lines of the Clayton law.

ANCIENT LAW IS BATTERED.

Hartford, Conn., April 28.—The state senate has passed a bill that would prohibit the attachment of the body of a union man in a court action growing out of strikes. Connecticut is the one state that permits the sheriff to place a man in jail, in default of bail, where an action for damages has been started against him.

The workings of this law were shown in the case of Bridgeport striking iron molders who were sued for damages by their employers, and then arrested and held in jail under $50,000 bonds. Trade unionists have protested against this practice, which permits unscrupulous employers and their attorneys to start all manner of damage suits against strikers and then have been thrown in jail in default of bail, even before judgment is rendered.

LABOR AGENCIES REGULATED.

Nashville, Tenn., April 28.—Legislation passed by the last state assembly will go far toward regulating the evils of private employment agencies. Hereafter agencies must tell applicants the exact nature of the employment, what is required and about working conditions. The agencies are under the jurisdiction of the department of factory and workshop inspection and they must keep a record of all transactions. If an applicant fails to secure the employment sought, the fee must be returned to him.

HOW THE "OPEN SHOP" WORKS.

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 28.—Machinists employed at the Letson & Burpee shops were discharged because they belong to the Machinists' union. The management announced it favors the "open" shop.

Officers of the union asked the management to distinguish between the "open" and the nonunion shop and to define their declaration that the "open" shop makes no difference between union and non-union men. The management has failed to comply with these requests.

UNORGANIZED WANT 8 HOURS.

East St. Louis, Ill., April 28.—Several months ago the Aluminum Ore company promised an eight-hour day and 15 per cent wage increases to 1,700 employes. These workers are unorganized and the company forgot its promise until its employes suspended work. The strikers say they will organize a union and affiliate with the American Federation of Labor.

MOLDERS RAISE THEIR DUES.

Cincinnati, April 28.—The official tabulation of the referendum vote of the Iron Molders' union to raise dues from 40 to 60 cents a week shows that 14,040 favored the increase and 6,332 opposed. The vote was the largest in the history of this organization and the substantial majority of 7,688 indicates that the iron molders realize high dues is a good investment.

FISHING STRIKE ENDS.

Gloucester, Mass., April 28.—The fishermen's strike is ended by both sides making concessions.

The fishermen maintained fairly good conditions up to a few years ago when a corporation bought up the independent companies and then began lowering working conditions that forced the fishermen to organize.

JEWELRY WORKERS UNITE.

Attleboro, Mass., April 28.—Jewelry workers have organized to reduce their work day from 10 to eight hours. These workers were hopeful that the state legislature would pass an eight-hour law for women, but when the women were forced to sign petitions against the plan, the jewelry workers concluded to help themselves.

LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS CHECKED BY GOMPERS

Washington, April 28. — Newspaper claims that President Gompers is against strikes in war times is discussed as follows in the current issue of the Trades Unionist, published in this city:

"To a man who has not lost his head in these martial days, it looks as though President Gompers outpointed those patriotic citizens who are interested in the question of cheap labor, and he also sobered up a lot of organized workers immediately following the declaration that war exists.

"Many state legislatures were in session at the time and certain employers took advantage of the excitement to insist that all labor restrictions be removed, under the false theory that this would increase production. Long hour advocates were in their element. Officers of the New York State Federation of Labor were even caught in the swirl and signed a plea that the labor laws of that state be set aside during the war period.

"This sentiment grew in volume and its logical ending would annul the efforts of years of sacrifice by organized workers who have secured legislation that protects the lives and limbs of the toilers of our land.

"Sam Gompers knew it was useless to argue with excited men or those whose motives were sinister. Besides, the time was too short for educational work. So he made a flank move as a member of the council of national defense and urged that no labor law be annulled unless sanctioned by that body and that no strike that would jeopardize the successful prosecution of the war be called unless considered by the council.

"The plan silenced the low-waged folks, who imagined they won by another route. This opinion was voiced by the daily press in sensational headlines, "Gompers Is Against Strikes."

"And some trade unionists who ought to know better, and who have forgotten their denunciations of the 'capitalistic press,' have swallowed as gospel truth the big headlines, which had no connection with the story these newspapers printed of the council's declarations.

"For 50 years Sam Gompers has insisted that the worker owns his own labor power and that no one, be he president, legislator or judge, can say him nay. This principle has been woven into the warp and woof of the organized labor movement, and while our movement welcomes the mediation and conciliation offers of any institution, it is a reflection on a trade unionist's thinking ability when he points to sensational headlines in newspapers as proof that the one individual most responsible for the principle of man's ownership of his own labor power has abandoned it overnight and announces he will carry the trade union movement with him.

"We suggest these unionists 'look up' on the rights accorded them in the charter issued to their organizations by the American Federation of Labor—that they have sole jurisdiction over their own affairs.

"And after they have done this, let them recall the frenzied zeal of cheap-labor employers for the abolishment of labor laws, and let them then answer this question:

"'How was this movement sidetracked?'"

STATE UNIONISTS MEET.

Tallahassee, Fla., April 28.—At the seventeenth annual convention of the state federation of labor John H. Mackey was elected president, and L. R. Campbell, secretary-treasurer, with Mrs. J. R. Howington, Jacksonville, as delegate to the Buffalo convention of the A. F. of L.

Cumberland, Md., April 28.—The annual convention of the Maryland State and District of Columbia Federation of Labor was one of the best ever held by that organization. President Ferguson and Secretary-Treasurer Bans were re-elected and Baltimore was chosen as the next convention city.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, April 28.—A two-year agreement has been signed by Electrical Workers' union No. 212 and the Electrical Contractors' association. Wages are increased from $4.50 to $5 a day for journeymen and from $2.50 to $3 for helpers.

Toronto, Ontario, April 28.—Organized electrical workers employed on the Toronto-Guelph traction line have secured wage increases of $3 a week and the discharge of all strikebreakers.

WOMEN WIN AND LOSE.

Lansing, Mich., April 28.—The legislature has passed a bill which permits women to vote for presidential electors, operative at the next presidential election.

Boston, April 28.—The state senate has rejected a proposal that women be permitted to vote on the recommendations of the constitutional convention.

OPPOSE NIGHT BAKE SHOPS.

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 28.—The Bakers' union is conducting an agitation for legislation against night bake shops, not only for the benefit of the workers, but for the reason that bread baked during the day and delivered the next day is more nutritious. Objection is also made to the employment of Orientals in this industry.

LENNON THANKS FRIENDS.

Washington, April 28.—John Lennon, treasurer of the A. F. of L., who has been seriously ill for several weeks writes President Gompers that it is physically impossible to reply to the immense number of letters received during his recent illness from "everywhere and from all classes and conditions of people."

MACHINISTS RAISE WAGES.

Schenectady, N. Y., April 28.—The American Locomotive company has raised wages of its union machinists as the result of several conferences. Piece work has been increased 19 1-2 per cent and day work prices are advanced 15 per cent. Over 2,000 employes are benefited.

RETAIL CLERKS REDUCE HOURS.

East Liverpool, Ohio, April 28.—The Retail Clerks' union has secured an agreement with local merchants which closes stores every evening, except Saturdays, at 5 o'clock from July 5 to October 1. The usual holidays will also be observed.

TO TEST MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Bismarck, N. D., April 28.—The state supreme court will pass upon the validity of the mothers' pension law in a case against the treasurer of Ransom county. The lower court held the act constitutional.